

AN
O D E
TO THE
M E M O R Y
OF THE LATE
CAPTAIN COOK.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

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CAPTAIN JAMES COOK.

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By W. FITZGERALD,

OF GRAY'S INN.

L O N D O N :

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M.DCC.LXXX.

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BY W. L. T. N. G. E. R. A. L. D.

OF G. A. T. I. N. M.



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IRREGULAR.

I. 1.

VIVID force of heav'nly fire,
Thou that mov'st the poet's soul,
When fill'd with love of public weal,
And all a patriot's grateful zeal,
He trembling strikes the lyre!

B

When

When his eyes in frenzy roll,*
 Giving more than kings can give,
 He bids the heroes honours live,
 Ah! whither art thou fled!
 Shall the muse withhold her lays,
 When weeping science claims consolatory praise:
 Shall the hours unconscious fly,
 Wisdom and courage pass unheeded by,
 And Cook be numb'ed with the silent dead!

II. 2.

'Tis not ignoble pride allures the brave,
 Nor cold the honours which their tombs display,
 They only truly live beyond the grave,
 And death their morn, eternity their day.

No

* "The poet's eye in a fine frenzy rolling." SHAKESP.

No final wish determines their desire,
 No dull satiety invades their breast;
 Pure and immortal hopes a bliss inspire,
 Ever enjoy'd, as ever unpossess'd---
 ---Yet in vain their virtues claim,
 Honour praise and ceaseless fame,
 Deny'd the poet's aid:
 If not the muses twine the wreath,
 Their laurels fade
 Beneath the stroke of death.

III. 3.

As sacred lamps intomb'd
 To sepulchres dispense a viewless grace:
 So glorious deeds, to dark oblivion doom'd,
 Nor light nor warm the human race---

Of fabulous age see in the far extreme,
Uncertain shapeless phantoms dimly gleam:

Ever, ever must they stray

On the dawning bourne of day,

Like Ghosts on black *Cocytus*' shore in *Stygian* night,

Excluded all *Elysium*'s fair delight---

To these no joys belong!

---To wander there for ever doom'd---

Their hapless bones no pious hand inhum'd;

And those no poet blazon'd in his song.*

IV. 1.

They who sweep the scowling main,

Who explore deep ocean's bed,

Not impell'd by lust of gain,

But by love of science led:---

How

* *Vixerunt fortes ante Agamemnona
Multi; sed omnes illachrymabiles
Urgentur, Ignotique longâ
Nocte, carent quia vate sacro.*

HOR.

---How small the splendid train---
 Gentle tho' resolute, tho' fearless mild,
 Along the vast before untempted wild
 'Tis theirs the lab'ring bark to guide,
 Unbaffled by the fleet winds or crushing tide---
 Lost in doubt, in darkness lost,
 See a bold tumultuous host
 In desp'rate agony demand
 Their former joys, their native land;
 With mingled elements combine
 To wreck their leaders heav'n-inspir'd design!
 Self-armed these the shock sustain
 Till bland success
 Shall make furrounding horrors less,
 And to her glowing hopes dismay'd defection gain.

V. 2.

If ye triumph o'er the deep,
 Or in caves of coral sleep,
 Or, pursuing former cares,
 Orbits mete of distant stars;
 Or portend the banner'd field,
 And borealian terrors wield;

Oh! Hear!

A brother bleeds, a brother dies;
 To you his kindred soul shall rise---
 His humble birth let meek *Columbus* love;
Gama his dauntless mind admire,
Cabot his patriot aims approve
Raleigh his wisdom join'd with fire:

Anson

Anson, the lowest seaman's friend,
 His provident beneficence commend,
 And o'er his fate *Magellan* * shed a tear!

VI. 3.

How oft has war's detruing fury hurl'd
 Science and genius from the grieving world!
 Vied not in vain the pow'rs of modern age,
 To bound her havock, to repress her rage!
 ---Foes to his country's name the sword suspend
 His toil earn'd store, his honour'd head to save,
 To soothe his cares, to speed his way contend;
 Of distant climes the freeman and the slave!†

Ah!

* Who perished in a similar manner.

† Alluding to the orders issued by the court of France, and by American envoys for the preservation of this illustrious navigator, and those most humane and friendly of the Empress of Russia.

Ah! whilst in vain a royal patron's praise,
 The world's applause and all his country's love
 Wait his return! peace and domestic days
 Estrang'd no more he sweetly hopes to prove!
 Him a faithless troop surround,
 Him rude weapons rending wound!
 Vanquish'd, Vanquish'd! Now no more!
 His injur'd spirit quits the barb'rous shore!

VII. 1.

" Sons of the savage race,
 " Which roam'd these pathless plains,
 " Your father's cruelty for ever mourn;
 " Your guiltless name it stains,
 " Whom the kind arts of peace
 " And mercy's gentle qualities adorn!

" Not

“ Not far remov’d the wretched time
 “ Penury of nature chill’d;
 “ And baneful scenes of blood and horror fill’d,
 “ When selfishness misruling own’d no crime!
 “ Then human nobleness unconscious slept:
 “ No gen’rous praise or bright example chear’d;
 “ Deep dreary night her sable empire kept:
 “ At length a star of rising day appear’d.”—

Such the rewards, by future bards,
 (Annual sounds of festal joy)
 Raptur’d I see, the fates decree
 Their lyres contending shall employ,
 What time *Britannia* rules the southern isles,
 And thro’ their happy clime imparted science smiles.--

VIII. 2.

" From old time had brooded here

" Incurious languor, sordid strife,

" Want rapacious, toil severe,

" (Ills that flow from savage life)

" Sullenness, with low'ring eye,

" Stifling gentle sympathy ;

" Disease untrac'd and ling'ring pain,

" That felt the wild magician's charm in vain

" Here did th' inglorious native wear away

" The blissless night, the prowling day ;

" Watchful from others to surprize

" Food, that unforc'd the steril soil denies :

" Whose darken'd mind in mercy found no joy,

" Who vengeful conquer'd only to destroy.

" Now

* As every effect which cannot be easily accounted for is referred to a superstitious cause, and they have recourse to the same source for relief, conjuration is the chief medicine of uncivilized nations.

IX. 3.

“ Now from the rugged prospect turn,
 “ O’er brighter fields of pleas’d description range,
 “ Whilst gratitude, reclining on his urn,
 “ In manly song recites th’ immortal change---
 ““ It rais’d our worship to the source sublime :
 ““ It gave our souls to wisdom’s heights to climb ;
 ““ Op’ning obedience to the first command, *
 ““ A happy people fills a fruitful land : *
 ““ From nature’s erring sway it snatch’d the rod,
 ““ And freedom, giving equal laws, bestow’d : †

** All savage countries, unless the soil be spontaneously exuberant, are thinly peopled. The difficulty of obtaining even a scanty and uncertain subsistence from hunting, or the sea, must always form an impassable bound for their population. A country at once extensive and uninhabited is necessary to the chase, and by fishing the inhabitants of but a very narrow district can be sustained.

† ἱεροφανς ἡ ἀδυνας ἐ-οισατορ. *Festival verses in honour of Har-
 modius and Aristogiton, given by Bishop Lowth. The word ἱεροφανς
 affords no mean instance of the delicacy and precision with which that
 elegant people the Greeks were used to express their conceptions. Giv-
 ing*

“““ Blind sensual calls, by civil arts refin’d,

“““ Rise into love and dignify the mind. †””---”

---“ But ah ! remembrance chills the rest,

“ Compunction holds my aching breast ;

---“ In vain the deed would filial pity hide---

“ In peace to our rude ancestors he came,

“ First op’d the way to happiness and fame,

“ And by their hands he dy’d.”

ing us a definition in a single compound word, they tell us, that freedom is that state wherein all are equally governed by general laws. It thence follows, that if there be any people over which another assumes a power of legislation, to be exerted at the pleasure of the latter upon and probably to the discontent of the former ; in other words, binding them in all cases whatsoever, such people are not *ισονομοι*—not free. It seems to have been this pure idea of legislation which actuated a certain great man to assert, that arbitrary power, wherever lodged, is a solecism in free politics, and ought to be resisted whenever it appears.

† Love is scarcely to be looked for in uncivilized or despotic countries. The subordinate and neglected condition of women in all savage countries (with perhaps a single exception) is dreadful ; and the honourable attention naturally due to the fair sex is generally carried to its true apex only in a free state.

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